



## Favoritism seen in having envoy to Vatican City

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has announced opposition to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U. S. Government and the Vatican.

Americans United said any formal diplomatic link between the U. S. and the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church would constitute favoritism for one religious faith and would contravene the First Amendment which prohibits any government action "respecting an establishment of religion."

U. S. Rep. Clement Zablocki, chairman of the House foreign affairs committee, and 24 cosponsors recently filed H.J. Res. 316, "providing for the establishment of United States diplomatic relations with the Vatican." The resolution would repeal an 1867 congressional act prohibiting such a diplomatic exchange.

"There is really no need for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican because the U. S. ambassador to the Italian Government in Rome can easily handle whatever business may be necessary between the interested parties," said W. Melvin Adams, executive director of Americans United.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent Myron Taylor as his personal envoy to Pope Pius XII from 1939-50. President Harry Truman attempted to name General Mark Clark as full ambassador to the Vatican in 1951 but an outcry from Americans of many religious traditions forced him to withdraw the appointment.

President John F. Kennedy, a Roman Catholic who advocated strict church-state separation, declined to name a representative to the Vatican. He said he saw no benefit to either party to such an arrangement.

President Richard Nixon reestablished the personal envoy in 1970, when he sent Henry Cabot Lodge to the Vatican. President Ronald Reagan's personal representative is William Wilson, a California businessman.

## Seminary announces personnel shifts as Shurden resigns, Bennett named

Walter B. Shurden has resigned as dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will become chairman of the Department of Christianity at Mercer University, Macon, Ga., Aug. 15.

Replacing Shurden at Southern will be G. Willis Bennett, 64, currently director of graduate studies and professor of church and community.

Shurden's wife, Kay, also will join the Mercer faculty as associate professor of family and community medicine in the university's school of medicine.

Shurden, 46, became dean at the seminary in 1980. Before coming to Louisville in 1975 the Shurdens were both professors at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.

Shurden is a leading Baptist historian who has achieved prominence as an interpreter of Baptist history. He is author of *Not A Silent People: Controversies That Have Shaped Southern Baptists; Associationalism Among Baptists in America, 1707-1814*, and *The Sunday School Board; Ninety Years of Service*.

R. Kirby Godsey, Mercer president, commented that Shurden's decision to join the faculty "is a critical component toward assuring that Mercer develops a strong and leading academic



Bennett



Shurden



Mrs. Shurden

program in the field of religion."

"At this point in Walter Shurden's life," Godsey continued, "he is making his most important contribution to the leadership and the interpretation of Baptist life and history."

Shurden, a native of Mississippi, received the MDiv and ThD degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is active in Baptist World Alliance and the Southern Baptist Convention.

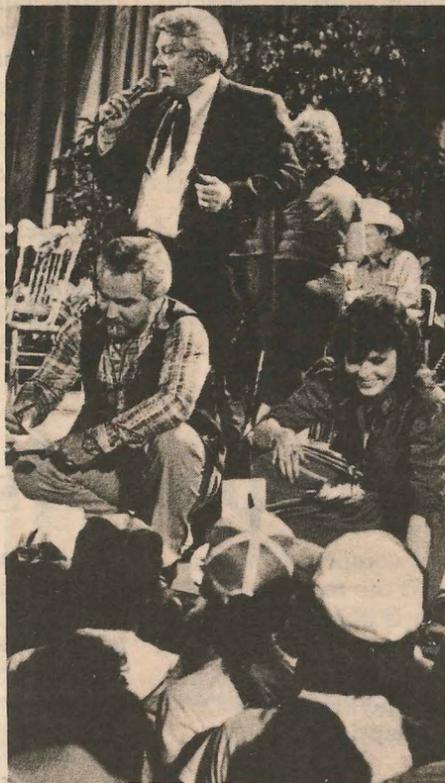
Mrs. Shurden holds the MA degree in English from Louisiana Tech University and a doctorate from University of

Tennessee.

Bennett has been a member of the seminary faculty since 1959. He holds the MDiv, ThM and PhD degrees from Southern Seminary and the MSW degree from University of Louisville.

Bennett is former pastor at Union City (Ky.) Baptist Church and four churches in his native North Carolina.

He was author of a strategic study on churches in transitional areas for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and is recognized nationally as an early pioneer of supervised field education for ministers.



### Stars in our crown

Country music stars Walt Mills [kneeling left] and Jeannie C. Riley [kneeling right] sign autographs for fans after appearing on "Country Crossroads," a new TV show that will premiere on the American Christian Television System next year. Produced by the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the weekly 30-minute show features songs and testimonies by country music performers. Jerry Clower [standing] cohosts the program, which is based on the popular RTVC radio show of the same name. Thirteen episodes were videotaped recently at Six Flags Over Texas.

## 8.5 by '85: 'It's working,' say SS leaders north of us

The goal to increase Southern Baptists' Sunday school enrolment from the present 7.6 million to 8.5 million by Sept. 30, 1985 is challenging but attainable, according to five Sunday school directors of three state conventions and two fellowships.

Mike Collins, Ohio; Bill Crider, associate director in Illinois; Lew Reynolds, Indiana; Bill Chambers, Minnesota/Wisconsin fellowship; and Eddie Olds, Iowa fellowship, attended Ridgecrest North, a recent Sunday school leadership conference at Winona Lake (Ind.) Bible Conference Center.

"The goal has permeated the churches," said Reynolds. "I don't talk to many who don't have some idea of what it's all about. They see it primarily as enrolling people in Bible study and starting new units."

The key to the 14 percent enrolment increase in Minnesota/Wisconsin in 1982 was church leaders "becoming aware we can grow and seeing the Sunday school as the organization that will bring about growth," said Chambers.

Crider, Collins and Olds agreed the churches which have set 1982-83 goals for enrolment increases are experiencing the greatest growth. As part of 8.5 by '85, churches are asked to set goals, report goals and quarterly progress to the Sunday School Board and develop and implement strategies for reaching the goals.

As of June 30 a total of 11,631 churches had reported goals for 1983. There are 35,862 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The goal setting process has increased the awareness of pastors about 8.5 by '85," said Collins. At present,

268 of the state's 464 churches (57.5 percent) have reported goals and Collins said he hopes to see that figure increase to 75 percent for 1983-84.

However, he warned of potential problems if goals are set only by the pastor and the Sunday school director. "Key leaders need to be involved in goal setting," said Collins.

A second factor cited was starting new Sunday schools and beginning new classes or departments within existing Sunday schools.

"We're at a significant point of growth," said Olds. "Churches in Iowa are aware of growth and are reaching out. The idea of starting new Sunday schools is not something we have to push. That is a way of life with us."

In Indiana, Reynolds said, "New churches are accounting for much of our increase. The older, established churches are not getting it done." He said 39 percent of Indiana churches are growing while 61 percent are either stabilized or declining in enrolment due to population shifts and other factors.

"If our older churches are to grow, new units must be started," said Reynolds. He called for new classes and departments within existing age groups but also those to meet special needs of ethnic and language groups as well as handicapped persons.

"We need to break from our old traditional patterns of following the moving vans with Georgia and Alabama tags," he said.

The decade of the 1980s in Illinois is the decade of enrolment, said Crider. "Our overall goal is to have 500,000 persons enrolled in Bible study by 1990."

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## daley observations

C. R. Daley

# Kentucky court halts circumvention of constitution

Kentucky Supreme Court justices clearly discharged their duties in ruling unconstitutional a 1978 state law providing state funds for free textbooks for parochial and private school pupils. The law was considered unconstitutional by many observers when it was enacted and it was funded the first year with only enough appropriation to provide for a constitutional test in the courts. It has required this much time for the courts' processes.

The Kentucky constitution is even stronger in its provisions for prohibiting state funds to be used for private or parochial education than the United States Constitution. The Kentucky courts, however, have not consistently upheld this constitutional prohibition. The circuit courts, especially, have been lax as evidenced by the Franklin Circuit Court which earlier upheld the free textbook measure.

Various ways have been devised to circumvent the obvious intent of the Kentucky constitution to keep tax funds from going to non-pub-

lic education. The chief loophole which has been used is the constitutional language which says no taxes levied for "education" can be used for parochial schools. The key word resorted to is "education." Free transportation for parochial pupils has been allowed by the courts on the basis that transportation of pupils is not aiding education but is in the interest of public safety.

The other maneuver of the circumventers is to claim that aid like books, laboratory equipment, etc. is aid to persons and not to schools. President Reagan resorts to this same argument in his push for tuition tax credits for parents of private school pupils. More and more Baptists who have started Baptist parochial schools are now seeking tax funds for their schools though such a position is contrary to long standing Baptist positions on separation of church and state.

Seeking state aid for parochial education is more than a legal matter. It is a moral issue. As the Kentucky Supreme Court ruling on the statute said, "The people of Kentucky specified

by the language of the constitution in terms that are clear and unmistakable that the type of expenditures authorized by the statute in question should be unconstitutional. If the people of Kentucky wish to change their position in this matter, it is their right to do so."

To try to circumvent a clear constitutional prohibition is immoral. The moral thing to do is to try to change the constitution.

But before trying to change this constitutional prohibition we would do well to reflect upon our forefathers' convictions. They believed two things strongly. One was every boy and girl in Kentucky deserves an opportunity for free education through high school. The other conviction was that the state should stay out of religious matters including parochial schools. These constitution framers were wiser than those now trying to circumvent clear constitutional prohibitions. They also knew the state could not afford to fund a public school system and a parochial school system. We ought to know as much.

# Franklin Baptists have learned to give is to gain

To paraphrase a television commercial well known to Kentuckians, Franklin First Baptists do it right or they don't do it. This year marks the 150th anniversary of this congregation and their weeklong celebration (July 10-17) was a magnificent thing to experience.

First Baptist, Franklin, is one of the truly strong churches in Kentucky. The church continues to grow in size and effectiveness in spite of spending a large share of its resources on other congregations. They have learned that to give is to gain.

Franklin is one of the most completely church towns in Kentucky and this is mainly due to the generous efforts of First Church. Church leaders have not been so concerned about building a super First Church as starting and helping other Baptist churches in all areas of the city.

Three other strong churches have sprung up in Franklin since 1965 and Franklin First has

been the generous sponsor of all of them. Calvary, dating from 1965, is now the second largest church in Simpson Association in resident membership and is third in total income and mission expenditures.

Barbe Baptist was constituted in 1974 after long years of struggle and encouragement from First Church. The latest child of First Baptist, Fairview Baptist, was featured in the July 20 Western Recorder (page 3) and, although not yet formally constituted, is already a strong congregation with unusually adequate facilities.

Franklin and Simpson County have good reason to be considered the garden spot of Kentucky. The soil is fertile and the agricultural economy is strong. Progressive minded citizens went after and got some choice industries several years ago thus giving a further boost to the economy.

The most treasured asset of Franklin and Simpson County, however, is not its fertile fields

nor its prosperous industries but its people and their quality. The jet set is small and the swingers are few. Old fashioned morality remains the unapologized for community standard. Churches are considered a community asset and preachers are influential in community life.

How can this writer claim all of this for Franklin and Simpson County? Because six of the happiest and most profitable years for my family and me were spent as pastor of Providence, one of Simpson County's choice congregations.

The invitation of Franklin First Baptist pastor David Crocker to join in the 150th anniversary celebration was understandably welcome. The joy of the occasion was enhanced by remembering that my treatment as the pastor of a rural church nearly 40 years ago was as gracious as my treatment week before last as the editor of the state Baptist paper.

# A commendable effort to help pastors meet stress

More mature Baptist statesman and Baptist schools should follow the examples of James Landes and Baylor University. Landes, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas before retiring last year, has joined the Baylor University faculty as distinguished professor of religion. His objective will be to help young Baptist pastors prepare for the stress which surely is to come and which is taking a heavier and heavier toll of pastors.

Next to a personal call from God and an unconditional commitment to that call there is no greater need for Baptist pastors and other church staff members than insight into how to deal with stress. Consider the following facts:

- The stress level of Baptist preachers is the highest or among the highest of any denomina-

tion. One reason is that in our completely autonomous local church government the responsibility for the success of a church is placed ultimately and finally upon the pastor. In a hierarchical form of church government the local pastor or priest has help from the hierarchy.

- 80% of the difficulty in Baptist churches stem from staff conflicts.
- Almost all Baptist pastors have suffered some kind of stress or crisis by age 40.
- Blood pressure checks reveal dangerously high levels among Baptist pastors.
- The ill effects of tension and stress among pastors are so common and so pronounced today as to be considered a new disease for which a new name has been given. It is known as "ministerial burnout" and its victims are legion.

Is this new disease treatable? Yes, it is, but prevention is the best approach. And Dr. Landes is just the physician to work on the cure. He knows about this malady. As pastor of several large churches and as chief executive of the giant Texas convention, he has had full exposure to it. This is why he has vowed to do everything in his power to prepare young pastors for the lifetime of stress he knows awaits them.

The ultimate objective of Dr. Landes is to set up seminars and counseling centers where young preachers can receive enough help to stay with their first love—the church.

Other Baptist colleges and Baptist leaders will be watching the efforts of Dr. Landes very carefully and anxiously. If they prove successful, other Baptist schools will provide similar help.

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C. R. DALEY, Editor, JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor

Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. —Jude 3

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### Kentucky reaps benefits from Coop Program

Kentucky Baptists are getting definite returns on the portion of their Cooperative Program gifts that support the work of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC).

Statistics released from the marketing department of the RTVC indicate that 127 stations—about 47 percent of Kentucky's 268 broadcast outlets—are airing 196 Baptist-produced programs.

"Country Crossroads" and "Powerline," each on 56 stations, share honors as the two most popular Baptist programs in the state.

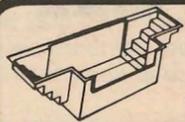
"Country Crossroads" is the half-hour country music program starring comedian Jerry Clower and Country Music Hall of Fame disc jockey Bill Mack. "Powerline" is aimed at teenagers and young adults, combining the music they enjoy with spiritual messages from the host.

The next most widely listened to show in Kentucky is "MasterControl," on 22 stations. "The Baptist Hour" is on 17 stations and "On Track" is on 16 stations. "On Track" is the RTVC's newest radio program and features contemporary religious music.

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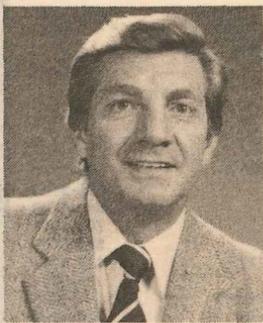
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**Ruth 1:16-20** After news came that conditions were better in Judah, Naomi informed her daughters-in-law of her decision to return to Bethlehem and to spend her last days among her friends. Her daughters-in-law accompanied Naomi a considerable distance; the Bible states that Orpah went "back to her people and to her gods," and we have never received any more information about her.

Ruth refused to return home, clung to Naomi, and made the earnest entreaty recorded in verses 16 and 17. She expressed her resolution to travel with Naomi anywhere, to live with her in any place, to accept Naomi's people as her own, to adopt Naomi's belief in God, to die with her at any time and to rest with her in a common grave wherever it might be. With those immortal words Ruth steps into the Hall of Fame. Her language was that of renunciation, for she was deliberately turning her back on her country, her people and her former gods. It was also the language of self-surrender, for she was binding herself to Naomi, to her way of life, to her people and to her God.

Their arrival in Bethlehem must have been a humiliating experience for Naomi, who had left in a spirit of proud independence and had returned very poor and bereft of her husband and her sons. Although bitterness had been her lot, Naomi had learned that God had not forgotten to be gracious unto her. **Ruth 3:1-5** The ancient Israelites did not help the poverty-stricken by giving them handouts, but by leaving a share of their grain in the fields in order that

the needy might glean a part of the leftover grain, take it home with them, and use it as their own. Thus the way was opened for these poor widows, Naomi and Ruth, to help themselves in the fields of Boaz, a kinsman of Elimelech. Thus the Hebrews taught that the poor need things done with them, rather than for them or to them.

Observing Ruth among the gleaners in his field, Boaz approached her and told her not to glean in anybody else's field. When Ruth informed Naomi what had occurred, the latter handled the situation with rare human insight, delightful discretion, tender love and full understanding. Trusting Naomi implicitly, Ruth heeded her counsel and followed her suggestions.

**Ruth 4:16-17** In due time Boaz and Ruth were united in marriage. To that union a son was born, to whom they gave the name of Obed. Because of Ruth's great fidelity and deep devotion, she was rewarded with a favored position, happy life, and a glorious lineage—for she was an ancestress of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, the one who was an alien became a chosen vessel for the accomplishment of the glorious purpose of God. The fact that God chose a foreigner, as well as Israelites, to accomplish his redemptive purpose is proof of his impartiality toward people. As certainly as God used this alien to bless the nation and the world, he will bless and use any person who seeks to please him.

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**Numbers 13:1-2a, 30** When the Israelites arrived at the borderland of their dreams, an appraisal committee—

was named and commissioned to spy out the land of Canaan and report its findings. The spies reported they found a land of magic charms, luscious fruits, alluvial soil and marvelous advantages. All agreed the land was desirable, but 10 thought there were too many difficulties for them to conquer it.

Caleb faced the great task without hesitation or fear. He and Joshua expressed both their faith in God and their natural optimism by the words: "We are well able to overcome." They firmly believe their all-sufficient God could and would change the strength of their enemies into weakness and the weakness of the Israelites into strength. They besought their people to throw their weakness on the unlimited power of God and to go forth trusting in him. **Joshua 14:7-13** Caleb's deep-rooted conviction and undaunted courage in-

spired him to heroic action. It must have been gratifying to Caleb to know he had "wholly followed the Lord." It was not mere egotism that caused him to claim this. Moses had previously testified to his fidelity in the same words (verse nine). God's Spirit also inspired Joshua to repeat the same testimony in verse 14. Obedience and faithfulness to God always brings blessings, and he always delights to honor those who honor him.

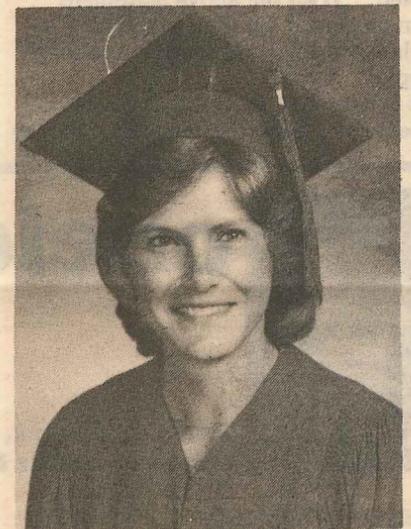
This passage is a reminder that God always blesses and rewards those who are faithful and obedient to him. Devotion to God is necessary if we are to be fruitful in our living and effective in our service for him. Those who "wholly follow the Lord God" will be kept alive and useful as long as he wants them to remain on the earthly scene, after which they will be rewarded by him.

## Meet

## Cumberland

## College

## Student...



**Teresa Lynn Llewellyn**

Cumberland College's Education Department is losing an exceptional student because she is graduating but the mountain youngsters of Kentucky are gaining an exceptional elementary teacher. Teresa Lynn Llewellyn, 24, is a Senior at Cumberland College.

Teresa's love for children compelled her to seek a career in education and her love for the mountains led her to Cumberland College. The excellent Education Department and the beauty of the nearly 100 year old campus were a winning combination. "Cumberland College has a beautiful campus, it is small and attractive and has a very good education program."

During Teresa's stay at Cumberland College she has been an active member in several teacher's organizations. She served as vice-president on the Student Alumni Relations Council (SARC). She is also quite active in her local church, working with children in the primary Sunday School class.

Teresa is a vivacious and outgoing individual with a favorite hobby of "making friends." She found this very easy to do at Cumberland College because of the small enrollment and closeness of the student body. "The warm student-faculty relationship is the best part of Cumberland College. The teachers know you and really care about you."

Teresa has found a home at Cumberland College as have thousands of others. Our doors and our hearts are always open to deserving students who truly desire an education, because, hopefully, like Teresa, they will return home to help the precious mountain children.

Dr. Taylor,  
Please send me more information about how I can help other students like Teresa.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Clip and mail to Dr. James Taylor, President, Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769.)



## on mission together

**William W. (Bill) Marshall**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC  
Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243

HOME AGAIN

On July 31 I will have been in office officially for three months. On Monday, July 11, a moving van unloaded what is affectionately known by the Marshall family as "our stuff." When the movers pulled out about 5 p.m. that day there were piles of boxes and mounds of things in each room of the house. Late in the afternoon several groups from Shelbyville First Baptist dropped by to share with us some of their cooking and a couple of my staff colleagues walked in with the evening meal. I had thought that all of the Marshall clan was due on Monday night about 7 p.m. for a "surprise" supper. So, without telling them why, I fought off our "starving" children and put the delicacies in the refrigerator. I used every excuse imaginable to hold them off but by 7:30 I assumed either the Marshalls weren't coming or I had made a mistake. (Actually, they were scheduled to come the following night which they did. I had misunderstood.) Only after

stomachs were full was I forgiven for my blunder. Within four days, the mounds of stuff had become strategically located and within a week—which is a new record for us—the house began to look and feel like home. As of this writing with the exception of a few pictures and wall-hangings (some of which I would prefer be stored in the attic!), we have claimed the house as our own.

For those of you Kentucky Baptists who may pass through Shelbyville going east on U. S. 60, you'll pass us on the right—1144 Main St. Built in 1904, this stable, white framed Victorian is hosting us as only its third family in the 80 years it will celebrate next year. As our family begins a new pilgrimage in another new place, we are reminded of the scores of families who will make a major change this summer.

We could wish for them all the same "taste of welcome" we have experienced already in Shelbyville. It's good to have a "home again!"



## homes for children

**Eldred M. Taylor, Executive Director**  
10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243

### HEELED

At a young age I learned the meaning of the word "heel." First, I learned that it is the back part of the foot. Then I learned that it has a number of meanings; such as, the built-up part of the shoe, the part of a stocking that covers the back part of the foot, etc.

Later I learned that by adding "ed" and forming the word "heeled," you had another totally different meaning. For the word "heeled" means having money—plenty of it. A term with similar meaning is "got rocks." All of us are familiar with these terms and know their meaning.

Why, then, would I bother to write you on the theme "heeled"? I do so because of what I keep hearing from pastors in various parts of the state. Quite often, a pastor will say, "Eldred, people in our area think that Baptist Homes for Children has plenty of money, and could go right on if we didn't give any more." In other words, there are those who think we are "well-heeled." With the above statement from pastors, I am then asked to explain our financial condition to their people.

It is true that we are sometimes recipients of a generous amount of money

from someone's will. Also Kentucky Baptists express great trust in and support of our ministry through the annual Thanksgiving Offering. However, these monies are necessary for the day-to-day operation of our great ministry. Actually, our trust funds (endowment) are extremely small. Therefore, these funds, which can never be spent, yield from their earnings only a small percent of our annual expenses.

It is true that we have some Ministry Reserve funds. These funds are just what the term says "Reserve" to be used in emergencies. The Kentucky Baptist Convention has asked us to be extremely careful about using these funds. Therefore, "Reserve Funds" also function as endowment and their earnings are used for operation.

Now, for the bottom line! Without the Thanksgiving Offering, the Cooperative Program allocation, gifts from wills and estates, and the many other church and individual gifts—small and large, we could not go on. Earnings from trust and reserve funds would not operate us more than about 10 weeks. Your prayers and gifts carry us the other 42 weeks.

We are not "well-heeled," and our "rocks" are very small.



## clear creek comments

**Leon Simpson, President**  
Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977

### EATING AT GOD'S TABLE

The psalmist said, "Thou preparest a table before me" (Ps. 23:5). Surely, these last few days we have been eating the food of Zion from God's table!

Our annual alumni conference brought over 200 registered alumni and families to our campus. We enjoyed the fellowship of the Lord tremendously. The food and the fun were also a part of the celebration of God's goodness and mercy to Clear Creek. It was my second alumni conference at Clear Creek and it impressed me greatly.

More than the inspiration afforded, the alumni enjoy the fellowship of being together as God's children, learning the news of the past year, and singing the songs of Zion. One of the characteristics of Clear Creek is that we like to be together and share our lives one with another.

Clear Creek is a school, a business and an operational institution. But more than anything else, Clear Creek is a family. We are one with each other and with all who name the name of Christ. When something wonderful happens to

one of our students at Clear Creek, all of us rejoice. When calamity comes our way, all of us suffer together.

Underlying all of our celebration, however, is a knowledge that it is only temporary here. This world is not our home, we're just a passing through. We belong to Clear Creek but, more importantly, we belong to the Lord. We are on our way to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and we shall rejoice there together.

Come to Clear Creek anytime. You don't have to wait until our alumni conference or until we have a special celebration. Come when you can and we will eat at God's table together!

### Blest be the tie

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.  
When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.

John Fawcett



## oneida journal

**Barkley Moore, President**  
Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, KY 40972

### I CRIED EVERY DAY

"My son is home for three weeks. I praise Jesus for the change in him, and I want to thank you there at Oneida.

"His dad was a remarkable Christian man who led many to Jesus. He was very successful in our church's bus ministry, and he was a deacon. We were blessed with an ideal family man too. Four years ago he died in his sleep of a heart attack, and we didn't even know he was sick. I was left with four children, the oldest 11, the youngest five.

"This and other things we went through made my son rebellious towards God. He had loved Jesus very much. He is the oldest son and he felt responsible to be the 'dad.' Of course, he was too young for such responsibility, but I depended on him in ways. I had been like a pampered flower when

my husband was alive, and I just wasn't mature enough to handle everything. I am really learning to depend on our Lord to help me as time goes on.

"My boy got involved in drugs, and we lived in fear of it. Now I feel like we are getting back the boy we once knew, and I thank the Lord and Oneida so very much."

A father and mother write: "We thank all of you at Oneida for giving our daughter the opportunity to better herself, and learn more about the Lord. Her attitude at home was such we could not get through."

Another mother writes: "Thank you for all you have done for our son. This past year has been a tremendous help to him."

"I have a step-grandson there. I have heard so many great things you have done with others. I do pray for our grandson and your great work there.

He is a sweet boy but seems not to be able to control himself when at home or with his local friends."

A father writes: "I'd like to commend your staff for the fine job you have done with my son. If it weren't for the all around great programs offered at Oneida Baptist, I'm sure he wouldn't have done as well as he has. Before he came to Oneida, he wasn't able to achieve anything academically at all. If ever a boy needed special academic attention, this one does. He feels academically inferior to his fellow students. This can lead to a lot of problems on down the road if not soon corrected. I thank you for all of your efforts."

The following lovely letter recently came: "My dear friends at OBI, I am Michiko, a former student from the class of 1980. I am from Japan and entered OBI as a sophomore in the fall of 1978. Time goes by so fast. This month I am graduating from Southern California College with a degree in psychology. I am very thankful to all of you at OBI for your help in attaining this goal.

"When I started attending Oneida, I could barely understand English. But the teachers took extra time to help me learn the class materials. My first year in an American high school was very hard for me because I had to learn

English at the same time as learning the standard subjects. I cried every day. I got closest to Christ, more than ever before. He was my best friend and the only one I could communicate with. Because of his goodness and your understanding and help, I enjoyed my second year and even finished my high school education early.

"When I came to college here in the following summer, it was again hard for me to adjust to a new environment. But all the things I learned at OBI helped me to get used to my new situation. I was active as a class officer in my first and second year, and now I am finishing up my college a year early.

"I would like to give much thanks to all of you at OBI who gave me a hand to get through. I would tell the present students at OBI that God truly is good to us and the people at OBI are ones who are willing to help those who need help at any time. Again thank you so much. I look forward to someday returning to visit OBI. In his name."

"Could you send me the necessary forms for admission? My nephews have attended there the past two years and say they wouldn't think of going anywhere else. I am very happy with the growth I've seen in both boys. They've had opportunities at OBI they wouldn't have had. I would like my son to come over there."



## campbellsville college today

**W. R. Davenport, President**  
Campbellsville College, Campbellsville, KY 42718

### JUST ROUTINE—THE LORD'S WAY

Joe had some questions that prompted him to come to talk. It was just routine—but what a great experience God made for me! It's interesting what you

can see in students' lives.

Newness. In Joe's case he is a new man. 2 Cor. 5:17 is coming alive in him. You see he didn't know Jesus when he came to Campbellsville. Life still has

some lumps, but he's learning to live it as a Christian. What a change!

Awareness and concern. He sees things differently now. Other students are a genuine concern. He wonders about helping them find solutions. We talked a lot about what being Christian really means to a college like Campbellsville. How do professors make their teaching special because they are Christians—in a special college structure that is Christian? How can rules and moral expectations be interpreted with caring, redemptive love so that results are not just favoritism and inconsistency? Joe is translating God's love into his own language. He's saying, "Maybe I can help show that other

fellow the way to Jesus." "President Davenport, we could pray for each other while we work on it."

Eagerness. Joe was leaving my office really fired up for the new fall term to start. This other fellow would be back. There would be opportunity to get into his life with Jesus. "How else could he help the college and make it even better?"

How do you put a grade on this learning? This is college education with some extras in it! . . . It was just a routine visit to the president's office turned into a little bit of God's glory! Thanks for your part in it as you give and pray to make Campbellsville a place with a vital margin.

# Marginal notes

## *In death, missionary's words may continue to comfort family through hidden messages*

by Bill Webb

A note on suffering and tragedy that missionary Roger Thompson wrote just before his death brought unexpected comfort and encouragement to his young widow, Susan.

Thompson, 35, had struggled with events surrounding an Apr. 30 mudslide that cost his family many of their personal belongings and forced them out of their missionary home. After retrieving belongings for two hours in a hailstorm at the time of the slide, his wife contracted bronchial pneumonia and was ill four weeks.

"It seemed like we were just at rock bottom," Susan Thompson recalled from her parents' home in Silver Spring, Md. Her husband had gone through what she called a "difficult time," visibly frustrated by the setbacks.

Mrs. Thompson and their children, Rachel, 8, Derek, 6, and Rebecca, 3, had been at her parents' home resting for nearly two weeks when Thompson and 118 other persons were killed when an Ecuadorean jetliner slammed into a mountain July 11.

She believes her husband wrote the note to share with her when the family returned home to Quito on July 14, to let her know how he had coped with his frustrations. As it turned out, his insights soothed her in her grief over his own death.

Discovered on Thompson's typewriter after his death, the note read:

"God never leaves us without comfort. Suffering is a part of life. We cannot avoid it. But there is a truth that gives us comfort. The grace of God always helps us triumph over sufferings."

"In times of tragedies we are able to understand lessons that we are not able to understand any other way. Sometimes difficulties come before the conquest, and after the conquest comes unexplainable joy. 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' (Rom. 8:31)

"God always has our best interest at heart. The will of God, even though hard at times, is always the best."

Susan Thompson returned to Quito July 14, accompanied by her brothers Jim and Bob Rich, not for a joyful reunion with her husband but for a memorial service with friends and colleagues and to get the family's affairs in order before returning to Maryland.

More than 100 missionary and Ecuadorean friends greeted her when she arrived in Quito. The time with the mission family and other Baptist friends "was great support," she said. "We had an awful lot of tears together."

She had resolved that during the memorial service at University Baptist Church in Quito on July 15 and the one to follow at Glen Burnie (Md.) Baptist Church July 19, "God would be glorified in the best possible way."

She asked missionary Curtis Ferrell, who had become a close friend to Thompson in the 15 months the Thompsons had been in Ecuador, to preach the message in Quito.



### *I have joy and I have peace*

Missionary Susan Thompson shares a laugh and a hug with her three-year-old daughter Rebecca at her parents' home in Silver Spring, Md. After Susan learned that her husband, Roger, died in an Ecuadorean airline crash July 11, her eight-year-old daughter Rachel asked, "Mommy, what are we

going to do?" Mrs. Thompson replied, "I don't know what we are going to do but I know God is with us." Though she has experienced pain, hurt and tears, "I have joy and I have peace," she said.

"He had been through so much," Mrs. Thompson said. He had been waiting for Thompson's plane to land at Cuenca the day of the crash and had tried for two days to identify his friend's body.

"Curtis, I just want you to dig up from the bottom of your heart the best evangelical sermon you can come up with because we're going to be praising God that night," she told him. "He just grinned at me and said, 'I can do it.' He preached a wonderful sermon."

Mrs. Thompson, 31, shared her husband's message on suffering in her testimonies at both services. She assured both groups she was confident her husband was with God and that "I know Roger would want you to know Christ and accept him as your savior."

Despite feeling pain and hurt, she said, "I have joy and I have peace."

At least two persons accepted Christ and several made other decisions in a spontaneous invitation that climaxed the service in Maryland.

Baker James Cauthen, emeritus executive director of the Foreign Mission

Board, preached an evangelical message and Mrs. Thompson's father, Robert Rich, requested an invitation. "I think we all felt there was something more to the service than just the memorial," Mrs. Thompson said.

Thompson's sudden death caused others to look at their own lives, she said.

"I personally feel the Ecuador Baptist Mission will never be the same," she said. "I think everyone went away (from the service) feeling they were going to be more faithful to what God had called them there to do."

She's confident the couple made a lasting impact on the work in Ecuador, though they served little more than a year.

She said Thompson's most outstanding missionary attribute was his love for nationals, a love his Old Testament seminary students recognized and valued. One of his primary responsibilities in Quito was his work at the Baptist book store, where he led two persons to Christ. One of those young men is preparing to enter seminary.

Thompson preached frequently in both Spanish and English. At the time of his death, he was on his way to Cuenca to direct a group in the use of a soul-winners' New Testament in evangelistic witnessing.

In his own way, Thompson left her and the children with treasures they will appreciate for years to come, she said. An avid reader, he frequently wrote notes to her and the children in his books, "notes he wanted us to read later on as we would look over them and as the children got older."

Susan Thompson figures they'll find many messages from him as they examine his library of several hundred volumes, those that weren't destroyed in the mudslide.

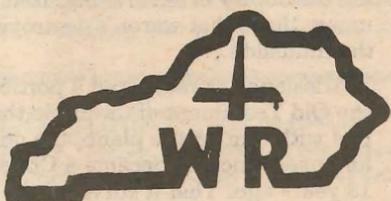
Missionaries recovered a portion of the Old Testament of the Bible that he had with him on the plane, the one he had used since he became a Christian 13 years ago. That it survived the explosion and fiery crash is a sign that God saved it for them, Mrs. Thompson believes.

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